

M-G-M's "Small Town Girl" Smash Box Office Hit

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

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TORONTO 2, CANADA

May 30th, 1936

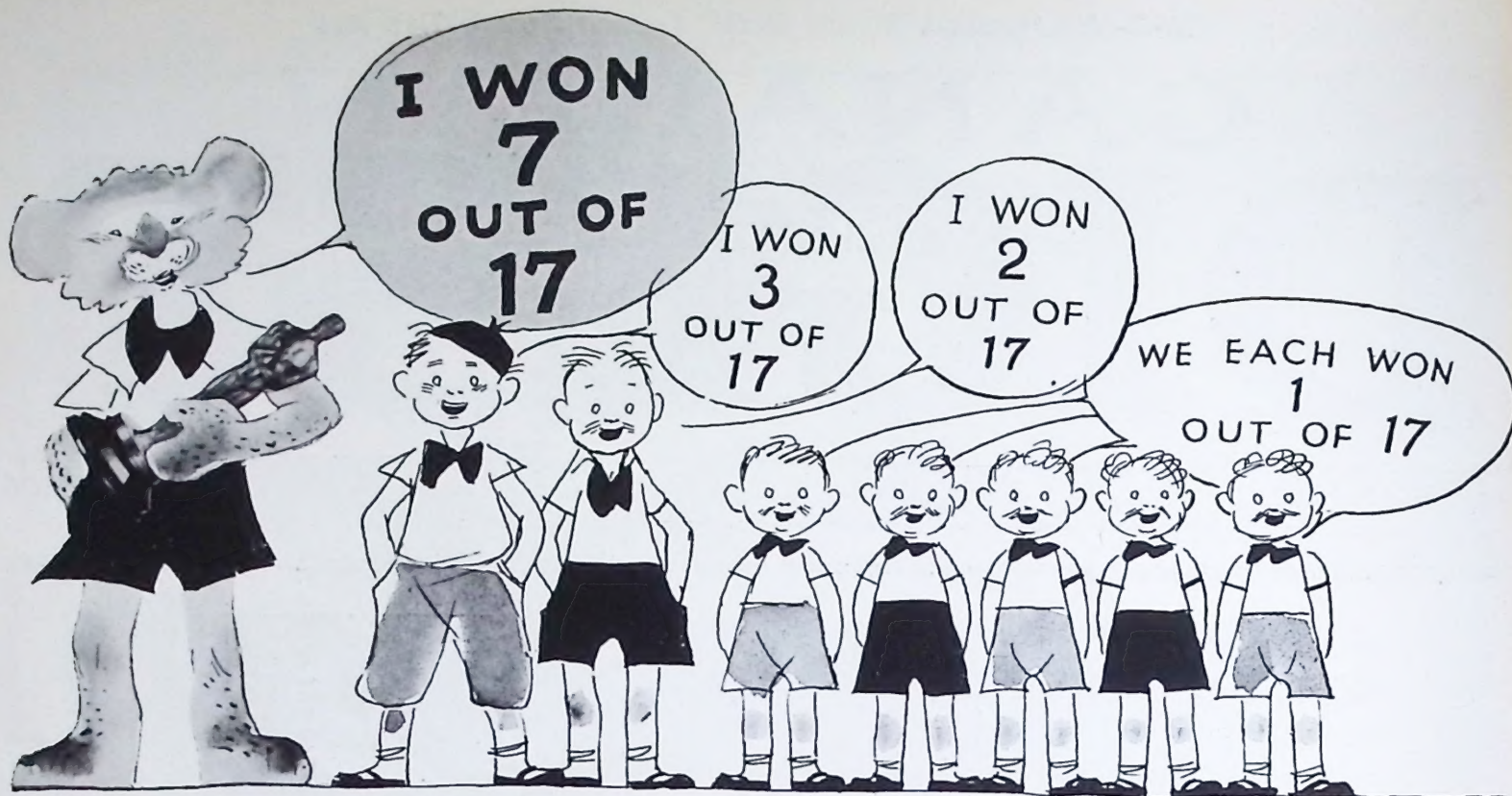


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Celebrating the 12th Birthday
of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

(*"Turn over please!"*)

PUBLISHED BY
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259 SPADINA AVENUE, TORONTO 2



(Leo Jr. towers over all other companies in the Short Subject test!)

NOW YOU KNOW WHICH SHORTS TO BUY FOR THE NEXT SEASON!

The results of the biggest theatre-voting contest ever conducted on Shorts of All Companies show that M-G-M won first place in 7 out of 17 classifications. By exhibitor opinion M-G-M Shorts are bringing the real business to the box-office, as shown in the Annual Survey of the Jay Emanuel Publications:

BEST 2-REEL COMEDY: "Our Gang Follies of 1936."

(Next Season Hal Roach will make the "Our Gang" Series in One Reel Each.)

BEST 2-REEL DRAMATIC: "The Perfect Tribute."

(Next Season you'll get similar Chic Sale Subjects in M-G-M 1-Reel Miniatures.)

BEST 2-REEL COLOR MUSICAL: "Pirate Party on Catalina."

(Next Season M-G-M will make musicals in 1 and 2 Reels.)

BEST 1-REEL COMEDY: "How To Sleep."

(Next Season Robert Benchley will continue in M-G-M 1-Reel Miniatures.)

BEST 1-REEL NOVELTY: "Audioscopiks."

(Next Season you'll get more 1-Reel novelties in Pete Smith's Specialties.)

BEST 1-REEL SPORT: "Football Teamwork."

(Next Season Pete Smith Specialties bring you equally great 1-Reel sport films.)

BEST 1-REEL COLOR TRAVEL: "Beautiful Banff and Lake Louise."

(Next Season the Fitzpatrick Technicolor Traveltalks will top his best.)

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RAY LEWIS
Editor and Publisher

THE LITTLE PAPER WITH THE BIG IDEAS

"Easy to Digest"

Vol. 28, No. 6

TORONTO 2, CANADA

May 30th, 1936

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
OTTAWA.

27th May, 1936.

Sir,

I am desired to inform you that
His Excellency the Governor General is requested to
express to you the thanks of The King for the copy
of the Memorial Issue of the Canadian Moving Picture
Digest published on the death of His late Majesty and
which you kindly sent to The King.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. L. C. Pereira

Assistant Secretary to the Governor
General.

Ray S. Lewis, Esq.,

Editor and Publisher

The Canadian Moving Picture Digest,

259 Spadina Avenue,

Toronto, Ontario.

RAW



RAY LEWIS

PRESENTS

A PROPOS of "The Farmer Takes A Wife", and "Farmer In The Dell", in motion pictures, it looks as if, in Canada, at least, we are to have "The Farmer in Politics", for this week, the Conservatives of Ontario elected the Hon. Earl Rowe, M.P., former minister without portfolio in the Federal Government, as leader of the Conservative party. The present Premier of Ontario is also a farmer! Following the balloting of the Conservative Convention, Premier M. F. Hepburn sent a telegram to the Hon. W. Earl Rowe, the New Leader, congratulating him on his victory, and expressing the hope that the same personal friendship will continue between them as it has in the past! "Although we will have to fight on opposite sides of the House, I hope that our cordial relationship will continue," was the message of the Premier.

Meanwhile, in his inaugural address, as Leader, Mr. Rowe challenged the Hepburn Government to dissolve the Legislature and call a general election. "We're ready now," stated Mr. Rowe, as the delegates cheered. It reminds you of two legal satellites, one for the plaintiff, one for the defendant, fencing before the majesty of the legal rights of the men who pay for such "fencing". They are putting on their show, they are giving their clients their money's worth, but if plaintiff and defendant are bitter enemies, not so with their lawyers, they remain the best of friends.

Farmer Hepburn and Farmer Rowe, Leaders of their respective parties, will put on their show for the electors, but when the nights grow cold, you are quite likely to find Farmer Hepburn and Farmer Rowe talking before a nice blazing fire, about the price of wheat, the price of hogs, etc.! Meanwhile, taxes grow higher and higher, governments need money, and it seems that they cannot mint enough to pay for what they need, until after the mint's turnout gets into circulation.

THERE has been considerable talk about a union between the United States and Canada, which reminds us of Will Rogers' broadcast during the Jubilee celebrations of His Late Majesty, King George V. Will Rogers said that the United States had bit off more liberty than it could chew, and suggested that England take the United States back. No one enjoyed that broadcast more than Uncle Sam and John Bull. They both loved the Will Rogers' humour; someone very wisely said, "There's many a truth spoken in a jest", and this occurred to me when I read the Jubilee broadcast, and recently when I heard that the question of union between Canada and United States had been brought up at Washington in the House by a member of Congress; certainly there should be a Union of the English speaking people of the world, and what is more

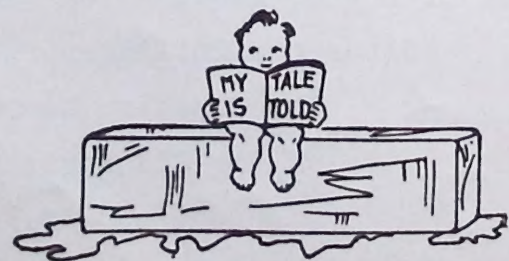
natural than such a Union between Great Britain and the United States? Canada is the luckiest country in the world with Uncle Sam just at her elbow, a visit to Europe will reveal just how lucky Canada is in this respect.

But, to return to Motion Pictures and Farmers — Fred Stone is a "natural" as the farmer, in "Farmer in the Dell", which played on a double feature bill at the Uptown last week. Fred Stone is climbing rapidly, and right into Will Rogers' place.

TWO recent Walt Disney creations, are as good as any Disney has created, namely, "The Three Little Wolves", and "Elephant Elmer". These two reveal that Walt Disney's imagination is as "cute" as can be, and that the public takes to the Disney antics, just as readily as it takes to grapefruit and orange juice every morning. Disney is good for the blood-stream, he enriches your sense of humour, and helps your circulation. United Artists still have a goodly number of Disney's to release, but in 1937, Disney becomes an RKO box-office bet; one or the other, it couldn't be bet-ter!

Now, let it be known that Canada's world-famous Quintuplets have had their 2nd birthday; and with the "cutting of the birthday cake", their governmental guardian, the Hon. David A. Croll, Ontario Minister of Welfare, who represents the King, on behalf of these "Quint Wards", has cut a motion picture melon for the Dionnes. At the end of 1938, the babies will be worth nearly \$1,000,000. But that is not all, they are so "healthy and wise", that they are worth their weight in gold.

A contract has been signed for three feature films, which, in addition to \$250,000 will give the children \$50,000 before the end of 1938 and 10% of the net proceeds of the films. 20th Century-Fox has signed up the world's most famous babies. \$250,000 has already been paid in advance on these contracts. The pictures are to be made before the end of 1938. If anything happens to either of the babies they lose the \$50,000, but the \$250,000 "bird in the hand", is already in the bank, and there it remains!



Hon. Charles Dunning Places 2 per cent Tax on 40 per cent of Film Remittances Abroad

Conklin in Winnipeg



J. J. Conklin

erly superintendent in Winnipeg for Famous Players, were particularly glad to see him.

Several important matters will be decided at the approaching conference, including a pre-view house for Winnipeg; the mooted Canadian-wide amateur contest, already started in the East, and quite popular there; extensive changes and improvements to the Metropolitan, and other matters of policy and routine.

Au Revoir, if not goodbye, to vaudeville at the Winnipeg Orpheum. The present stage company, closing, will be the last to be seen in that theatre, at least until September. The present idea is to re-open the Winnipeg Orpheum to vaudeville and screen shows about Labor Day, but much will depend on the speed with which the living stage, vaudeville and what have you, marks a return in the United States, and the probable visible supply of worthy attractions for next season. Patronage this season at the Winnipeg Orpheum has been good, but, after all, Winnipeg is as yet comparatively a limited market for amusement, and this situation demands careful thought.

Winnipeg friends of Lloyd Dearth, for several years manager of the Capitol theatre in Vancouver, and who came to Winnipeg for a brief time as superintendent, following H. M. Thomas, will be interested in the announcement that he has resigned his Vancouver position to go to Hollywood in charge of three Pantages Theatres in that city. In fact, he has already taken up his residence in California. Vancouver friends tendered him a dinner on the eve of his departure from that city, presenting him with a handsome electric clock.

Another talking picture theatre for Winnipeg is planned. The new building will be located on Portage ave., between Arlington and the Subway.

Not so long ago Canadian exhibitors hesitated to book British pictures because of the lack of box office names in the casts. How completely that difficulty has been removed may be judged from the list of screen favorites who have gone or will soon go from Hollywood to make pictures in the Mother Country and who are to be found heading current or future releases. The following are the most recent engagements:

By Gaumont-British . . . Edmund Lowe, Constance and Joan Bennett, Sylvia Sidney, Charlie Ruggles, Roland Young, May Robson and Chester Morris (who will make "Michael Strogoff"), Robert Young, Victor McLaglen, Maureen O'Sullivan and Richard Arlen.

By General Films Distributors . . . Arthur Tracy, Anna Neagle.

By London Films . . . Marlene Dietrich.

By B.I.P. . . . Buddy Rogers, Mary Brian, Otto Kruger, Florine McKinney.

Judge Does Not Blame Movies

ALTHOUGH many people had stated that reasons for juvenile delinquency, among others, were the moving pictures and the comic strips, the chief cause was in the home and neighborhood environment in which offenders were raised, Judge F. A. E. Hamilton of the Juvenile Court in Winnipeg, told the Manitoba Motion Picture Exhibitors' association at the monthly luncheon meeting of that organization, in Winnipeg.

Judge Hamilton said the juvenile court is interested in bringing about a more wholesome environment for youth, and does not condemn entertainment provided in moving picture theatres.

THE management of the Monarch Theatre in Medicine Hat, Alta., has made the announcement that a complete \$6,500 Kooler-Air conditioning system is being installed in the theatre. When completed, the theatre will be in the front rank of Canadian theatres.

New Theatre for Victoria, B.C.

A PERMIT has been taken out by R. F. Castle for the erection of a theatre building at Oak Bay Avenue in Victoria, B.C. The estimated cost of the building is placed at \$15,500. It will, in addition to the theatre, accommodate stores and hall on the second floor.

Scott for M-G-M

A Winnipeg man who crashed the movie studios of Hollywood in a big way is back home this week. He is William F. Scott, former theatre electrician, and now free lance trick-lighting expert on famous pictures.

Nineteen years ago Mr. Scott went to Hollywood and got into the "process lighting" end of the business.

Monday Mr. Scott left for London, Eng., where he will be associated with Church Reisner in the M-G-M Studios.

More of Freddie's Father

CECIL LLEWELLYN BARTHOLOMEW, father of Freddie Bartholomew, young motion picture star, lived at one time in Winnipeg, and is well remembered by Mrs. Colin Campbell, for whose husband Mr. Bartholomew worked. Mr. Campbell was then attorney-general of Manitoba, and the young star's father was his chauffeur.

"Bartholomew was my husband's last chauffeur", Mrs. Campbell said. "He came to us in the summer of 1912, and remained in our employ until Mr. Campbell's last illness, when we were away from Winnipeg for 20 months. When we returned to Winnipeg I tried to locate him, but had no word of him until this week, when newspaper stories told me that our man was the father of the young actor.

"I recall him clearly. He was very tall—about six feet six inches, slim, good looking, with rather auburn hair. He was very gentlemanly always, appeared well educated, and was quite reticent about his antecedents. He never spoke of his earlier life."

Helen Hayes Wins Annual Award, Drama League of N.Y., for Most Distinguished Performance of Year (Victoria Regina)

Lulu in Hollywood



Lulu S. Niemeyer

20TH CENTURY - FOX, "PRIVATE NUMBER". Directed by Roy Del Ruth with Robert Taylor, Loretta Young, Basil Rathbone, Patsy Kelly, Joe Lewis, Marjorie Gateson, Paul Harvey, Jane Darwell, Paul Stanton, John Miljan, Monroe Owsley, Billy Bevan, Frank Dawson, George Irving, May Beatty, Alex Pollard, Jack Pennick, John Van Eyck, Kane

Richmond, Lilyan Irene, Maxine Hicks, Betty Morris, Lillian Worth, Ann Howard. Do you remember how you loved Janet Gaynor, and Chas. Farrell in "Seventh Heaven", well in Robert and Loretta you have another such a charming pair. Loretta, without funds, seeks employment as a maid, and is engaged by a dissolute character, Basil, functioning as a butler, but he reckons without his Patsy, who is right on the job. Robert comes home, sees the gal, and loses his heart, and they marry before his return to school. Basil, finding out that there will be a baby makes life pretty miserable for Loretta, aided by Robert's parents, who try everything to wreck the marriage. It all works out all right in the end through the personality of Loretta, and every one in the cast doing 100 per cent, thank you. It's tops.

20TH CENTURY - FOX, "CHAMPAGNE CHARLIE". Directed by James Tinling with Paul Cavanaugh, Helen Wood, Noel Madison, Montague Love, Torben Myer, Delma Byron. Another mystery that works backward. Paul gets by with his gambling in a very likable fashion, until he parts a couple of racketeers from a nice fat pile of money. In order to get back some of their losses, they suggest he take unto himself a nice gal with a lot of money to her credit, but when he is about to cash in on the proposition, he finds she is the daughter of the girl he used to love, and so it doesn't work out the way the "gang" planned.

RADIO'S "THE LAST OUTLAW". Directed by Christy Cahanne with Harry Carey, Hoot Gibson, Tom Tyler, Henry B. Walthall, Margaret Callahan, Ray Mayer, Harry Jans, Frank M. Thomas, Russell Hopton, Frank Jenks, Maxine Jennings, Fred Scott. Is just what you might expect from such a cast, and then some. It's a story of twenty years later, and it's good to take. Henry the sheriff has raised, as his own, the daughter of Harry, who has been sent up as a bank robber. The girl knew nothing of her real father's mistakes. Hoot is in love with the gal. A mad dash after bandits, and the old man shows up the cocky young sheriff in bringing home the "bad boys". Through the capture, wherein the young ruffians have used Margaret as a shield, father and daughter are re-united. It's full of pep and fun, and song.

RADIO'S "BUNKER BEAN". Directed by William Hamilton and Edward Kelly with Owen Davis, Jr., Louise Latimer, Robert McWade, Jessie Ralph, Lucile Ball, Berton Churchill, Edward Nugent, Hedda Hopper,

Ferdinand Gottschalk, Leonard Carey, Russell Hicks, Pierre Watkin, Richard Abbott and Sibyl Harris. Owen is supposed to be meeker than Moses (so they say) but when in his own mind he decides he is the reincarnation of Napoleon and a couple of kings, he gets up enough courage to ask for money, plenty of it, for a patent of his, as well as the hand of his boss's daughter. Clever quips, amusing situations, and a pleasant hour is gone.

Meet the Exhibitor

by Phil Stone

PUNS, similes, and metaphors, will all lose their volubility when encountered by serious, righteous thought. . . so we shall leave them out of this biography of a Thinker . . . by name, William (Bill) Brady of the Madison Theatre . . . Mr. Brady is essentially an individualist . . . and his individual and outstanding pet hate is chain groups and combines . . . it is so much of the man's personal history that we must need mention his deities as we would the fact that he is a graduate of the School of Practical Science . . . that he was an electrical engineer . . . was employed by Westinghouse in the States for one year . . . but at the call of his father, joined him in helping to build the Madison in 1914 . . . the theatre was managed by Mr. Brady's father until his death in '29 . . . at which time "Bill" took over the reins . . . He voices his loathing for combines this way: . . . "If a hundred men were to attack a single, independent man on the street, the police would be called to break up and disperse the large group of attackers. So, if group attack is not allowed in private life, why should it be allowed in business?" . . . Mr. Brady is a slim short man, a little past the middle-age mark . . . he is, however, more active minded, more alert to what is going on about him than most men of half his age.

WHEN a youngster of twenty-three summers is assigned to interview a veteran of about sixty of our warmest seasons . . . there should be interesting tales to tell . . . and Mr. Hyman King of the King's Playhouse and Grant Theatres, fully lived up to our expectations . . . for he told us of how he first met our Editor . . . Miss Ray Lewis . . . some twenty-five years ago (Note to Ed: We promise never to reveal what age he told us you were at that time!) . . . of how he attended her wedding . . . of the first theatre the Griffins built on Yonge St. . . . the "Nickel" . . . of when the Royal Alex was built . . . of the Gaiety . . . "The Madhouse", later the Regent . . . Mr. King started in the movie game 23 years ago as manager of the King's Playhouse . . . 7 years ago the Grant came under his capable wing . . . he is an independent owner . . . his long years of experience in the movie game have made him wise and gentle . . . not that there is not fire left . . . just no more roaring undirected flames. But did not someone tell us it is easier to re-kindle embers than start a new fire.

Universal's "Show Boat" to Follow "Things to Come," Imperial Theatre, Toronto



Show Business



"Trouble for Two" Montgomery Picture

"Trouble For Two" has been selected as the title for Robert Montgomery's new starring vehicle, based on Robert Louis Stevenson's famous collection of stories titled "Suicide Club".

In the M-G-M picture Rosalind Russell has the feminine lead. Others in the cast are Frank Morgan, Reginald Owen, Louis Hayward, E. E. Clive, Robert Greig, Ivan Simpson, and Tom Moore, with J. Walter Ruben as director.

Jack Hulbert as "Bones"

Jack Hulbert's next film for G-B will give the great comedian an opportunity to exploit his talent in a subject vastly different from the song-and-dance musical-comedy type of production he has made famous in the past. He will appear as "Bones" — Lieut. Tibbetts, favourite character created by the late Edgar Wallace. "Bones", the monocled "Silly-Ass" hero of a remote African outpost, is one of the world's most beloved fictional characters.

It is probable that the picture will be directed by Charles "Chuck" Reisner, the well-known American comedy-director now in London for G-B. Work on the subject has already been started by Austin Melford and Bryan Edgar Wallace, son of "Bones" creator.

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20th Century-Fox New Productions

Four pictures went into production at 20th Century-Fox. Shirley Temple's "Dimples", under the direction of William Seiter, "Ramona", the Technicolor production starring Loretta Young, Don Ameche and Kent Taylor, under the direction of Henry King, and "Sing, Baby, Sing", being directed by Sidney Lanfield and presenting Alice Faye, Gregory Ratoff, Patsy Kelly and Adolphe Menjou. Also a Sol Lesser production "Border Patrolman", for this company's release.

Georges Metaxa in "Never Gonna Dance"

Georges Metaxa, singing master of ceremonies who recently signed an RKO Radio contract, left New York on the Twentieth Century Limited on Thursday, May 28th, Hollywood-bound. Immediately after arriving he will start work in an important role in "Never Gonna Dance", forthcoming starring vehicle for Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers that went before the cameras last week. Metaxa will portray an orchestra leader and will sing a duet with Miss Rogers.

Errol Flynn, Bette Davis and Hunter in "Another Dawn"

A wire from the Warner Bros. studios in California announces that Errol Flynn, Bette Davis and Ian Hunter will head the cast of a picture entitled "Another Dawn", soon to go into production. Laird Doyle has written the story which the film will be based on.

Billie Burke and Morgan for "Piccadilly Jim"

Billie Burke and Frank Morgan are to be teamed as the parents of Robert Montgomery in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's forthcoming "Piccadilly Jim".

As the mother of the madcap Jim, Miss Burke is to make her first screen appearance under the terms of her new contract with M-G-M, recently signed. The picture will bring to the screen one of the most famous characters created by the humorous pen of P. G. Wodehouse — a quick-witted American and his hilarious adventures in London.

Robert Leonard is to direct the comedy, to be produced by Harry Rapf.

Cast of "Two in a Crowd" Grows

Alfred E. Green has added three more players to the cast of "Two in a Crowd" in its final week of production. These players are John Hamilton, Bradley Page and Paul Fix. The principals in "Two in a Crowd", which is one of Universal's first productions for next season, are Joan Bennett, Joel McCrea, Elisha Cook, Jr., Alison Skipworth, Reginald Denny and Andy Clyde.

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Toronto Theatres

LOEW'S—Manager Jules Bernstein — Janet Gaynor and Robert Taylor in "Small Town Girl", an M-G-M production.

TIVOLI—Manager D. Krendal — Marlene Dietrich and Gary Cooper in "Desire", a Paramount picture; and "Love Before Breakfast", with Carole Lombard, a Universal picture.

UPTOWN—Manager Jack Arthur — "The Ex-Mrs. Bradford", starring William Powell and Jean Arthur; also Fred Stone and Jean Parker in "Farmer In The Dell" — both RKO Radio pictures.

IMPERIAL—Manager Tom Daley—3rd week "Mr. Deeds Goes to Town", starring Gary Cooper and Jean Arthur. A Columbia picture.

SHEA'S—Manager Jerry Shea — Pat O'Brien and Josephine Hutchinson in "I Married a Doctor", a Warner Bros. picture.

Pickford-Lasky's "One Rainy Afternoon" Opening Loew's, Toronto

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BEFORE YOUR EYES TODAY!

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